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From: Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District
To: Distribution

Subj: EXAMINATION OF FOREIGN CHEMICAL TANKERS

1. Scheduling of mid-period and biennial inspections on the subject tankers has been a problem for some vessel operators. Numerous examples exist of vessels being denied a mid-period examination before the one-year anniversary of the issuance of their Letter of Compliance (LOC). This situation was tolerated by some operators because many units allowed up to fourteen months for the mid-period exam before prohibiting cargo operations. New port state control policy prohibiting cargo operations on any vessel overdue for an annual exam has necessitated implementation of a consistent inspection policy for these vessels. Therefore, effective immediately, the following inspection policy for chemical tankers with a valid LOC and SOE shall be followed in the Eighth District:

a. Every effort shall be made to honor requests for an examination (mid-period or biennial) up to two months before the required annual due date.

b. Barring any safety or structural conditions which warrant delaying cargo operations, vessels that are overdue for the annual mid-period examination by no more than two months shall be allowed to commence cargo operations pending their Coast Guard examination. In these cases, the vessel shall be examined prior to its departure.

2. This policy formalizes the ten to fourteen month window that some MSOs have granted vessels with a valid LOC. While the ten-to-twelve month portion of this window applies to the scheduling of all examinations, the twelve-to-fourteen month provision applies only to mid-period examinations. Vessels with an expired LOC shall be prohibited from conducting cargo operations prior to issuance of a new certificate.

3. Commandant (G-MVI) will be implementing a similar policy soon. Please ensure that your personnel scheduling examinations of these vessels are aware of this policy. Questions regarding this matter may be directed to CDR Tetreau at (504) 589-3624.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. W. Calhoun".
J. W. CALHOUN
By direction

Dist: All Eighth District MSOs